

**THI/SCI TRUST FUND
QUARTERLY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
June 14, 2012**

Attending Board Members: Henry Bateman, Ken Alexander, Anne Olivier, Paul Harch, Carol Harbo, Jay Lyles. **Agency Staff:** Alicia Smith, Valencia Roberts, Lavon Johnson and Hugh Eley. **Public:** BIALA's Brigid Deloach.

Call To Order. The meeting was called to order by Program Manager, Alicia Smith.

Introductions. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and their relation/position to the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund Program. Senator John Alario appointed Senator Fred Mills to the Board, but he was unable to attend this time.

Minutes. Carol Harbo mentioned that at the last Board meeting, William E. Moak stated that he was opposed to HB 591 regarding the Trust Fund; and she stated that she thinks he would appreciate that be noted in the previous minutes of March 1, 2012. Everyone agreed to approve the minutes with this change.

Resource Center Updates. Executive Director of BIALA, Brigid Deloach, presented updates on the Resource Center. The Resource Center has relocated to the Advocacy Center in New Orleans until a separate onsite office space is made permanent. To date there has been nearly 400 callers searching for assistance regarding numerous programs and information including the trust fund. These calls were from within and out of the state of Louisiana. They have participated in community events showcasing programs and services. They have provided technical assistance and assisted with the development of two North Shore support groups in Hammond and Covington. Several conferences have been held by the Resource Center, including their Annual Conference this year titled "Finding Your Way Back". Approximately 100 survivors, caregivers and medical professionals attended, there were 28 exhibitors and topics ranged from Youth Concussion to Dating with Injury. They are conducting **Resource Center on-the-go!** where they travel around the state and educate people about the needed resources and services. Their **Featured Speakers Tour** continues on June 21, 2012 at the Baton Rouge Rehab located at 8595 United Plaza Blvd with presentation entitled "Effects of Cognition on Daily Living following a Brain Injury" featuring Speech Pathologist, Kimberly Diez.

Anne commented that there is no reference to the Office of Aging & Adult Services (OAAS) office, which oversees the THSCI Trust Fund Program, on the Resource Center's website. Brigid said that she can add a link to access information for this.

Legislation/Reorganization. HB 591 became effective (Act 269) upon the Governor's signature. The Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) Office of Aging and Adult Services now administers the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund Program. Ken Alexander explained that previously, the Advisory Board controlled and directed the money of the program. It will continue to act in an advisory capacity and will go on record stating their recommendations regarding the program. Carol also stated that previously, there were program policy and procedures that guided the program. All program rules, policies, and procedures remain in effect until such time as amended through appropriate channels.

William E. Moak and Yadi Mark are no longer members of the Board. They represented entities that are no longer in existence (Louisiana Head Injury Association and Louisiana Spinal Cord Association). Carol asked if there would be a nomination period where recommendations can be made to appoint other members. Lavon mentioned that this particular meeting would not be the one in which to choose the members but to discuss how to move forward. Carol suggested that the current members make a list of recommendations with experience and biographies and present it to the Board; rank, consolidate and present it to the Governor. Hugh Eley explained that the Board does not provide the names. Organizations provide us with names; we present them to the Boards and Commissions staff in the Governor's office. Typically they will ask for input. staff in the Governor's office. Typically they will ask for input. OAAS and the Board can then make recommendations to submit to the Governor on whom to appoint. A list of recommended organizations will be emailed to Alicia Smith in about a month.

Carol showed concern about other members on the Board as well and questioned their validation in holding the positions due to certain changes. Concern was also given regarding the attendance at the Board meetings. Lavon will contact Christine Peck whom previously stated that she would research the attendance aspect of the Board. After some discussion, Paul Harch recommended that a temporary Chairperson be appointed until the reorganization is finalized. All agreed on this. Ken nominated Carol Harbo and John "Jay" Lyles seconded the nomination and it was approved.

Financial Report. Alicia did not include the negative balance in interest account because she questioned the validity/accuracy of it. Ken and Paul recommended that in the future all figures are included on the report regardless of validity and it can be discussed at the meeting. Everyone was in agreement to this recommendation. Paul also requested that Alicia check with the finance department regarding the large deficit amount of \$300,000. **NOTE: Subsequent investigation has shown that this was an error by the Treasurer's office and it has been corrected.**

Program Update. In the past quarter, we have had 25 applicants – 12 of which have spinal cord injuries and 13 with traumatic brain injuries. We are currently serving 591 individuals. There have been 61 cases opened since January of this year. Individuals from nearly half of each case manager’s caseload have not requested goods/services through the trust fund in one or two years. This is causing inefficient use of time for the Case Managers because it is in their contracts that they are required to contact each client and it is also causing other individuals on the waiting list to have to wait even longer to receive services from the program. At the next meeting, Alicia will have a draft of a policy on how we want to handle the “inactive” status regarding this issue. The new computer software has been pushed back to around October 2012 due to another IT project in OAAS that has to be completed by the contractor prior to beginning our program.

Consumer Satisfaction Survey. A number of the surveys have been returned by the consumers in May and they are still being sent into the office. The information from these surveys should be compiled by the next Board meeting.

Public Comment. None.

Adjourn. Carol entertained the recommendation by Ken and a second by Jay to adjourn the meeting.

**THE DATE OF THE NEXT TH/SCI ADVISORY BOARD MEETING IS
September 5, 2012 and begins at 10:00 a.m. held at PACE, 7436
Bishop Ott Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70806.**

Respectfully submitted,
Valencia Roberts, Admin. Prog. Spec.